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LETTER DATED 1 JULY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter to you from Mr. Omar Mustafa Montasser, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, refuting the United States Administration's allegations that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is a threat to United States security and supports terrorism.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzid Omar DORDAH
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 30 June 1997 from the Secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my letter to the Security Council of March 1997, in which I indicated that the United States had intensified its media campaign against my country and was threatening to attack Libya.

President Clinton recently ordered the continuation of the economic sanctions imposed on my country, asserting that the Jamahiriya is a threat to United States security and supports terrorism. In that connection, I wish to inform you of the following:

1. The United States Administration is determined to maintain in effect Executive Orders Nos. 12543 and 12544, dated 7 and 8 January 1986, respectively, which provide for the freezing of Libyan assets and the imposition of an economic embargo on Libya, measures that were denounced by the majority of civilized countries at the fifty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted resolution 51/22 of 27 November 1996, prohibiting the use of economic sanctions as a means of political compulsion.

2. It is regrettable that a large and very powerful country should claim that a small country is a threat to its security. The Jamahiriya, far from being a threat to anybody's security, is itself the victim of constant attacks by the United States Administration.

3. The United States Administration's persistent accusations that my country practises terrorism are completely unjustified. The Jamahiriya has already condemned terrorism in all its forms, including State terrorism, and called on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send an impartial international delegation to Libya to verify the United States Administration's allegations and ascertain that there are no camps for training terrorists on Libyan territory.

4. The United States Administration's decision to maintain Executive Orders Nos. 12543 and 12544, dated 7 and 8 January 1986, respectively, which provide for the imposition of an economic embargo on Libya and the freezing of Libyan assets abroad, violates the principles of respect for national sovereignty and of peaceful coexistence among States recognized by the international community, as demonstrated in resolution 51/22 of 27 November 1996, which the General Assembly adopted at its fifty-first session and in which it prohibits the use of economic sanctions as a means of political compulsion.

In addition to informing you of the state of political relations between my country and the United States Administration, I wish to reaffirm that the Libyan Jamahiriya is willing to cooperate with the Security Council with a view to promoting peace and international security, as well as peaceful coexistence among all States.

(Signed) Omar Mustafa MONTASSER
Secretary of the General People's Committee
for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation